



Recognition Resolution

WHEREAS, in one of his first official acts after taking office, Governor Timothy M. Kaine created the Start Strong Council to develop recommendations for increasing access to high-quality preschool for Virginia children. The council — which included legislators, representatives from school divisions, private providers of early childhood education programs, local government officials, community business leaders and parents — made a series of recommendations that influenced subsequent actions to provide quality preschool programs to more children; and

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2006 the Governor urged the Board of Education to create a formal process to recognize and reward schools and school divisions that far exceed state and federal accountability standards. The Board responded on July 25, 2007 by approving the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program. The VIP program awards points to schools and divisions based on the percentage of students achieving at the advanced level on Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments and progress made toward educational goals advocated by Governor Kaine and adopted by the Board. The program includes four awards recognizing progress on the journey from competence to excellence: Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, Board of Education Excellence Award, Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award, Board of Education Rising Star Award; and

WHEREAS, the Governor announced the "Commonwealth Scholars" program in April 2006 to encourage students to take rigorous courses that go beyond the minimum graduation requirements for a Standard Diploma. Students who complete the curriculum are eligible to receive a diploma seal from their school division recognizing their achievement; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that high school graduates are ready for the rigors of post-secondary education and training, the Governor asked the Board of Education in December 2007 to require schools to create academic and career learning plans for middle and high school students. The Governor proposed a flexible process involving parents, students and educators to ensure that the courses students take are aligned with their academic and career goals. The Board of Education included Governor Kaine's proposed academic and career planning requirement in its 2009 revision of the Standards of Accreditation; and

WHEREAS, at the start of his administration, the Governor called on the Board of Education to address graduation and dropout rates in the commonwealth's high schools. By 2008, the accumulation of student-level information in the commonwealth's longitudinal data allowed for the inclusion of a "graduation and completion index" in the Standards of Accreditation. The graduation and completion index provides full credit to schools for students who graduate with a Board of Education-approved diploma and partial credit for other outcomes that represent a successful effort to keep a student from dropping out without a credential; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 General Assembly responded to the Governor's advocacy of expanding access to high-quality preschool — especially for at-risk children — and on April 3, 2008, Governor Kaine announced the creation of the Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD) to coordinate services for children from birth to age five, including VPI, Head Start, childcare subsidies, provider services and other state-level efforts to advance early childhood development and learning; and

WHEREAS, in October 2008, the Governor announced the addition of "Lexiles" to SOL reports to help parents select books that will strengthen their children's reading skills. When elementary and middle school students receive this year's SOL reports, a corresponding Lexile will accompany their reading scores. A Lexile ranks reading ability and text difficulty on a single scale, allowing parents and teachers to select books at or slightly above a student's reading level; and

WHEREAS, as part of his "competence to excellence" agenda for the commonwealth's public schools, the Governor asked the Board of Education to establish criteria for a system of Governor's Career and Technical Academies modeled on Virginia's nationally acclaimed academic-year Governor's Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Governor used a grant from the National Governors Association to provide start-up funding for six academies designed to: 1. Break down traditional barriers between education and the workplace by integrating core academics and career and technical education in high school and postsecondary education and training; 2. Attract more students to postsecondary education in preparation for technical careers; and 3. Provide highly skilled and well-educated workers to meet the work force needs of existing businesses and industries and support the recruitment of new businesses and industries; and

WHEREAS, the system now includes academies in Arlington County, Halifax County, Loudoun County, Newport News, Russell County, Stafford County, Suffolk and Chesterfield County (2009-2010); and

WHEREAS, the Governor worked with the Board of Education and the Virginia Career Education Foundation to establish the Governor's Exemplary Standards Award program to raise the rigor and quality of career and technical education (CTE) programs across the state. CTE programs work with business advisory groups and postsecondary faculty to review standards and then apply for the Governor's Exemplary Standards Award. Exemplary programs form a growing network of CTE programs that share best practices with each other and with other programs striving for the designation; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2009, the Governor announced the official launch of "Virginia on iTunes U," a dedicated area within Apple's iTunes Store featuring free access to educational content. Led by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Virginia on iTunes U is a collaborative effort among state and national organizations including Radford University, Blue Ridge Public Television, and Thinkfinity. The site enables teachers and content partners to share digital content and resources that support the Virginia Standards of Learning. The site also provides education flexibility, allowing individuals to choose what, when, and where they learn. To extend this initiative, Governor Kaine also issued the "Learning Apps Development Challenge" to encourage developers to produce innovative mathematics applications that will engage middle school students and encourage advanced learning and achievement; and

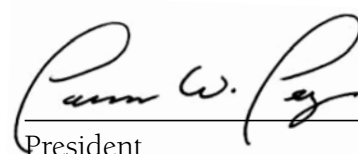
WHEREAS, during his administration the Governor met with the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals and had in-depth discussions on several of the issues addressed in this recognition resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Governor addressed secondary principals and assistant principals and encouraged a dialogue with the administrators at their Annual Conference twice during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals continues to be committed to working with its membership, the Department of Education, the Board of Education, the Governor, the Legislature and the public at large to fulfill its mission and vision; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals Board of Directors reaffirms its determination to support school principals and assistant principals in providing leadership to their schools and communities for the purpose of improving the education of Virginia's youth and reaffirms the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals vision to be the commonwealth's foremost authority on school leadership for Virginia's youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, recognizing that ensuring appropriate leadership to schools and communities for the purpose of improving the education of Virginia's youth is a core function of the Governor's leadership and commitment, the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals Board of Directors recognizes, applauds and appreciates the public school education accomplishments of Governor Timothy M. Kaine on this 1st day of July 2009, at its 82nd Annual Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference and Exposition in this 103rd year of the Association.



President



Executive Director/CEO